

4.3.3.2.2.5 *Geology and Soils*

The deep borehole complex area disturbed during construction activities for this alternative would be 63 ha (156 acres). The deep borehole complex represents an irreversible commitment because wastes in below-ground area could not be completely removed, nor could the site be feasibly used for any other purposes following closure of the facility. This land would be perpetually unusable because the substrata would not be suitable for potentially intrusive facilities such as mining, utilities, or building foundations. Because no site has been identified for analysis, impacts to geologic and soil resources cannot be determined at this time.

The identification and acceptance of a site location would require extensive site characterization to ensure that the primary objective of the deep borehole complex, isolation from the biosphere, would be met. A site study would be conducted in support of the tiered NEPA documentation.